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MERCHANT MARINE LAW NULLIFIED.

President Wilson has formally refused to carry out the provisions of the merchant marine act instructing him to give notice to foreign nations that certain sections of existing commercial treaties are terminated. In doing so he not only commits a new act of presidential usurpation but gives to the people of the United States the strongest possible arguments against the creation of a league of nations under the authority of which an autocratic executive might in the future defy the acts of congress and perhaps use the armed forces of foreign powers to enforce the representatives of the American people into policies sacrificial of American interests. It has been suggested that there is no peril in the league as brought home by the president; as congress would always stand in the way of any betrayal of American interests; but President Wilson proves by his action that an executive sufficiently autocratic may defy the will of an American congress on the ground that the covenant of the league of nations is a law superior to any act of congress.

It seems particularly unfortunate that this act of usurpation is committed by President Wilson against the interests of his own country and in favor of the commercial interests of foreign lands. Coupled with all the other evidences of alien sympathy and spirit, this formal declaration of President Wilson that the protest of a foreign nation, voicing the selfish demands of shipping interests, carries more weight with him than a solemn enactment by the representatives of the American people, only tends to confirm the constantly growing impression that Woodrow Wilson is the best president of the United States that Europe ever had. Happily only five more months of Wilsonism is in prospect in this country. The great and solemn referendum will come on November 2, when the voters will go to the polls to register their disapproval of the record of the present administration.

Action of the sort that President Wilson has taken in disregarding the provisions of the merchant marine act is the revival of the pretension to executive power which has in England lost kings their thrones and even their heads. The right to nullify laws of a nation assumed by an official specifically sworn to execute the laws and to no other function, is one with which even the most autocratic nations of Asia do not invest their rulers.

FIRE PREVENTION DAY.

Saturday, October 9, has been named as "Fire Prevention Day" by a proclamation issued by Governor Boyle in accordance with the custom of many years. The proclamation urges that all who have influence in guiding the conduct of the people or in training the young in habits of life to imitate both by precept and example the necessity for great care in the prevention of fires. At the same time Fire Chief Askin has issued an appeal to the citizens of Tonopah to examine thoroughly all stoves and chimneys before they start their fires for the winter. Both these warnings come at an opportune time, for winter is drawing close and the necessity for fires in stoves and furnaces is becoming more urgent every day.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Fire losses can be cut down only through prevention, and prevention can only come about through the cooperation of all the citizens. Houses, cellars, garrets and garages should be gone over and everything which looks like a fire hazard should be cleaned up and kept clean. That is the important point—keep fire hazards clean. Collections of old papers and piles of debris cause many fires in the course of a year. The fire department is always on the job, ready to do their utmost in putting out any blaze which has started, but it is much more economical to the citizens of a town to spend a few hours each day in keeping their premises clean. The necessary work is small and will take little time and in the long run it will pay the biggest dividends of any work in which anyone can engage. One fire can in a few minutes wipe out the home for which a person has saved for years, and the sorry thing about it all is the fact that practically every fire can be prevented. On next Saturday citizens of many towns of this country are going to be engaged in this work of prevention. Tonopah should not lag behind in this matter and the people of this city should individually turn in and see that all fire hazards close to their dwellings and places of business are cleaned up so that the danger will be reduced.

THE DECLINE IN SUGAR.

The extortionate prices which have prevailed for sugar in this country have had their natural effects, which were to bring sugar into this country from every part of the world where sugar existed, to greatly diminish consumption and also to very greatly increase the use of substitutes. The "invert" sugars—commonly known under the general term "glucose"—can be and always are used extensively in manufactures, and such use has been greatly increased. Chemists are searching for ways of preparing these sugars for table use, and some claim to have succeeded. Meanwhile, the new beet sugar is coming into market.

Indications are that the price will fall not to the pre-war level, but at least to the level which existed when the food administration fixed 10 1/2 cents as a fair price of sugar, but notified the Louisiana planters that they would not be prosecuted if they did not charge more than 17 cents. Whereupon the Cuban growers sat up and took notice, with results which we all know.

It is not improbable that sugar will fall below the 10 1/2 cents fixed by the food administration as "fair" for administration prices contemplated profits to dealers not theretofore customary. The refiners' profits probably did not exceed one-half or three-quarters of a cent a pound, the wholesalers got about the same or less, and if the retailers got out even they had cause to be thankful. Sooner or later competition is likely to have the same result. How soon nobody can know. Production doubtless costs more.

The disclosure that Secretary Baker has contributed only \$50 to the Democratic campaign fund demonstrates that Newt is rock- less only when he is spending other people's money.

Flood of Immigrants Greatest in History

(By Associated Press)

NEW YORK, Oct. 7.—Ellis island, melting pot of the world, is boiling as never before, with the greatest flood of immigrants in history pouring into it. Millions more are clamoring at Europe's exits, anxious to come to America, and congress will be pressed to quickly enlarge both the physical plant and working force on the island to more than double its present size, according to Immigration Commissioner Frederick A. Wallis.

Since early last summer, aliens have been entering America's front door in unprecedented numbers. The problem of housing them until they can be admitted to the country has become painful to all parties concerned. Recently hundreds of immigrants detained for investigation had to sleep standing up as the floors, benches and chairs already were filled with the backwash from the congested dormitories.

The tide is certain to become greater with each passing month. Commissioner Wallis felt assured. Steamship companies informed him their accommodations are booked to capacity for 12 months ahead. Government officials announced 267,000 applications had been made for passports in Poland alone, mostly by Jews, while hundreds of thousands of other parts of Europe also were anxious to cross the seas to the country.

Frequently the commissioner asked the aliens why they left Europe. Most of them replied, "no money, no eat," he said. Many Italian farmers declared they quit their native soil because of the danger from explosions when plowing in former battle grounds.

In the meantime, while wondering how many years it will be before aliens quit coming across the sea at their present rate, Ellis island workers are perplexed over their existing problems. The normal capacity of the island is reached when 2000 immigrants are inspected daily. Yet, on a recent day, 10,400 aliens were fed there. During another day the same week 11,000 persons were detained in the holds of the vessels which brought them over, while officials struggled with the work of examining the 4000 then on the island. For two days the island doors were

shut against newcomers, who remained on boats.

Desperate congestion, everything possible as being done to make the treatment of the aliens on the island humane. Babies are given warm milk and crackers. Candy, cigarettes, fruit and other comforts are furnished adults. Sunday concerts, with bands, grand opera stars and others on the program, are held weekly. For those who cannot find a bed, 10,000 army blankets recently received from Washington are available for improvised sleeping space.

POLITICS IN AUSTRIA HOT

(Correspondence of Associated Press)

VIENNA, Sept. 13.—The Social Democratic party of Austria, numerically the largest in the Austrian parliament, charges in an appeal its leaders have issued asking for votes in the election for the national assembly on October 17 that the counter-revolutionaries have been victorious in Hungary and that their syndicates and gillnets are preparing the way for restoration in that country of the rule of the Hapsburgs. This is the line of which the late emperor, Francis Joseph, and his son, Carl, were descendants.

The Social Democrats put forward as their issues the reforms they have advocated since the formation of the republic and which they assert have been defeated by the combined bourgeois opposition. In the main, these are suppression of the power of the clericals, taxation of capital and great estates, age and invalid insurance, school reforms including separation of schools and church, adequate pay for public servants, and similar measures.

The Christian Socialists are charged with obstructing this program so long that the control of many of the most valuable natural sources of wealth, such as the iron mines of Styria and Carinthia have passed to Italian control and now foreign protests make impossible the full realization of the socialization scheme.



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